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Space does not permit an exposition of the results of the inquiry in regard to dependent children, nor a summary of the descriptive chapters which comprise the remainder of the work.

To many the whole work will not seem to justify its title. The subject is larger than the contents of the book would indicate. But, in the opinion of the committee, the other economic aspects of the liquor question have been fully treated elsewhere. I venture to differ with this opinion, and believe that the book will be a disappointment to those who reasonably expected a fuller treatment of the subject. The activity of the police in the direct suppression of drunkenness, and the cost of this to the public, is a matter which in my judgment is of the utmost importance in the consideration of the liquor traffic in its economic aspects. One cannot be captious of such an omission in any particular book, but it seems regrettable that the scheme of study of the Committee of Fifty does not appear to include many other aspects of the liquor question which might be described as economic. There are several luminous suggestions in the concluding part of Professor Farnam's introduction which we should have been glad to see the subject of special inquiry.

As far as the work goes it is to be commended to the careful consideration of all. Its dispassionate objective tone cannot but appeal to the searcher after truth. It furnishes the best estimate which has been made of the influence of intemperance in causing pauperism and crime. Probably its best recommendation will be that it will not satisfy extremists of either type.

ROLAND P. FALKNER.

Friendly Visiting Among the Poor. A Handbook for Charity Workers by MARY E. RICHMOND, General Secretary of the Charity Organization Society of Baltimore. Pp. 225. Price, \$1.00. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1899.

This is a book intended for beginners who desire seriously to study the poor with a view to helping to improve their condition. It is written by one who has had experience both in caring for families in need and in training new workers; it is therefore full of practical suggestion. Familiar principles are put tersely and are illustrated by brief histories of families from several cities, including Boston, New York, Buffalo, Cincinnati and others east and west. Those who are not beginners will find it full of help.

The introduction gives a brief historical sketch of the development of charitable effort, with a summary of the causes of distress and the attitude requisite on the part of the visitor to remove these causes. A

list of collateral readings is given with each chapter. These references are a valuable feature, and render the book adaptable for class work as well as for individual students. The chapter on "Relief" contains six concise statements of the principles on which relief must be given to be effective. This constitutes the chief scientific addition that the work makes to the subject of work among the poor. These principles are not new but their systematic grouping is both new and helpful.

The chapter on the "Church" like that on "Health" undertakes to give suggestions on a very broad subject in a space too small to be satisfactory. Thus the suggestions about the church and friendly visiting among the poor are given in thirteen small pages, while suggestions about the health of the family are given in ten pages. One would be glad to find in the former chapter more useful hints about the training of church visitors, and about the several forms of activity that a church may undertake in order directly to improve the conditions of the poor. One does not find in the latter chapter suggestions about the sick, about fresh air excursions, a subject to which less than one page is given in the chapter on "Children," when and how to notify the health department, or what to do if the families visited are taken with some of the various forms of contagious disease. In a later edition, perhaps, these excellent chapters may be made longer. The appendix contains a brief, clear description of seven typical families in which the visitor has been helpful, or otherwise, in lifting up the family in care.

Some illustrations of the practical bearing of Miss Richmond's book are found in the following selections: "It is well to realize that much of the political corruption of our large cities may be traced to the simple fact that the poor man is like ourselves; he follows the leaders personally known to him, and to whom he is personally known. . . The question of municipal reform is inextricably connected with any effort to improve the condition of the poor in their homes, and no charity worker can afford to ignore this connection." "An observant visitor will learn the condition of the cellar, walls, yard, plumbing, and outhouses; will learn to take the cubic contents of a room in order to find out the air space for each sleeper; will learn the family method of garbage disposal; will see how the rooms are ventilated; and will learn all these things without asking many questions."

It is interesting to compare this little book with the article upon the work of the charity visitor, called "The Subtle Problems of Charity," by Miss Jane Addams, in the February number of the *Atlantic Monthly*. The former is bright, hopeful, full of faith in the

poor and in the possibility of helping them, the latter gives one the impression of doubt and despair, giving no hint of where to begin in mending matters. It seems probable that experience will uphold the more hopeful view.

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Les Congrès Ouvriers en France (1876-1897). By Léon de Seilhac. (Bibliothèque du Musée Social.) Pp. ix, 364. Price, 4 francs. Paris: Armand Colin et Cie., 1899.

Thanks to various studies, the history of the modern labor movement in Great Britain and Germany is comparatively well known to American students. On the other hand, it is safe to say that few if any Americans have been able to obtain a clear idea of the labor movement in France during the past twenty or twenty-five years. This has been due both to the inaccessibility of material and to the constant shifting of the labor parties in France.

The Musée Social has collected such material relating to labor affairs as was contained in the reports of national gatherings of workmen's organizations since 1876. M. Léon de Seilhac, author of "*Le Monde Socialiste*," has been entrusted with the compilation of these reports and he has arranged them in such a way as to afford an excellent sketch of the rise and growth of all the numerous labor parties in France. The compilation consists of extracts from the most important resolutions, debates and reports of each congress supplemented by the author's comments showing the relations of the various congresses to each other and explaining the reasons for each important change of program.

The reader of this history is especially impressed by the fact that the French labor organizations have been completely controlled by the socialists. There are many different parties representing French labor interests but their differences all refer to the means rather than to the end desired. One of the principal sources of contention at the present time, is the question of divorcing the labor organizations entirely from politics. The recent growth of the *Bourses du Travail* has afforded an excellent basis for the local federation of trade-unions. These local federations have in their turn given rise to a national federation of a non-political nature and it now appears possible that a permanent separation of politics and trade-unions will be maintained.

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